

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/071,873

Examiner

Christopher A. Revak

Applicant(s)

RICHMOND ET AL.

Art Unit

2131

-- **Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on th cover sheet with th correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to June 8, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35,37-40 and 42-48.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

E. J. Noise
EMMANUEL L. NOISE
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher McKenna on December 21, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, on page 1, lines 9-10, delete –under attorney docket no. E00378.70181/JHM/DPM—and replace with “as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/071,228”

35. (As Amended) A method of controlling network resource usage by a user at a network entry device of the communications network that serves as the user's entry point to the communications network, wherein the user has an assigned role with respect to the communications network, and the assigned role is associated with one or more packet rules, each packet rule including a condition and action to be taken if a packet received at the network entry device satisfies the condition, the method comprising acts of:

(A) receiving a packet including identification information of the user from a device of the user at a port module of the network entry device before using, by the user, any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device;

(B) determining the assigned role of the user based on the identification information; and

(C) configuring the port module of the network entry device with the one or more packet rules associated with the assigned role of the user to control usage, by the user, of any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device.

40. (As Amended) A system for controlling network resource usage by a user at a network entry device of the communications network that serves as the user's entry point to the communications network, wherein the user has an assigned role with respect to the communications network, and the assigned role is associated with one or more packet rules, each packet rule including a condition and action to be taken if a packet received at the network entry device satisfies the condition, the system comprising:

a port module of the network entry device, the port module including a physical port to receive a packet including identification information of the user from a device of the user before using, by the user, any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device and port configuration logic to

configure the port module with the one or more packet rules associated with the assigned role of the user to control usage, by the user, of any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device; and

an authentication module to determine the assigned role of the user based on the identification information.

45. (As Amended) A system for controlling usage of network resources of a communications network by a user at a network entry device of the communications network that serves as the user's entry point to the communications network, wherein the user has an assigned role with respect to the communications network, and the assigned role is associated with one or more packet rules, each packet rule including a condition and action to be taken if a packet received at the network entry device satisfies the condition, the system comprising:

a port module of the network entry device, the port module including a physical port to receive a packet including identification information of the user from a device of the user before using, by the user, any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device and port configuration logic to configure the port module with the one or more packet rules associated with the assigned role of the user to control usage, by the user, of any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device; and

means for determining the assigned role of the user based on the identification information.

46. (As Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer-readable information stored on the computer-readable medium that define instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process of controlling network resource usage by a user at a network entry device of the communications network that serves as the user's entry point to the communications network, wherein the user has an assigned role with respect to the communications network, and the assigned role is associated with one or more packet rules, each packet rule including a condition and action to be taken if a packet received at the network entry device satisfies the condition, the process comprising acts of:

(A) receiving a packet including identification information of the user from a device of the user at a port module of a network entry device before using, by the user, any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network device;

(B) determining the assigned role of the user based on the identification information; and

(C) configuring the port module with the one or more packet rules associated with the assigned role of the user to control usage, by the user, of any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 1,17,33, and 34, it was not found to be taught in the prior art of configuring a port module with packet rules corresponding to the identity of a user and before using, by the user, any of the network resources beyond the network entry device, applying the packet rules to the received packet to control usage, by the user, of any of the network resources beyond the network entry device.

As per claims 35,40,45, and 46, it was not found to be taught in the prior art of configuring a port module with packet rules corresponding to the identity of a user and before using, by the user, any of the network resources beyond the network entry device, applying the packet rules to the received packet to control usage, by the user, of any of the network resources beyond the port module of the network entry device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

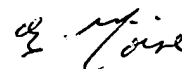
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher A. Revak whose telephone number is 571-272-3794. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CR

December 21, 2004


EMMANUELL L. MOISE
PRIMARY EXAMINER